Buffy's Corner

The Newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society

December 2003, Volume 5 Number 4

The Prez Sez...

BHS President Peter Murphy

Doors Open Brampton 2003 recorded over 12,000 site visits at 28 locations across the city, an increase of just over nine per cent from our first Doors Open in 2002.

Financing the venture was somewhat stressful; plans were in place but there was little money in the bank. That situation was resolved in August when grants of $12,500 from the City of Brampton and $10,800 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation were received.

The bulk of our expenses, over $16,000, were incurred in marketing and promoting the event. When all expenses are taken into account it works out that each site visit cost approximately $1.80.

The Steering Committee, with some changes, has reconvened to commence planning for Doors Open 2004. The BHS will continue as the lead organization. The other partners will be the Brampton Arts Council, the Brampton Heritage Board, Tourism Brampton, the Heritage Theatre and the Peel Heritage Complex.

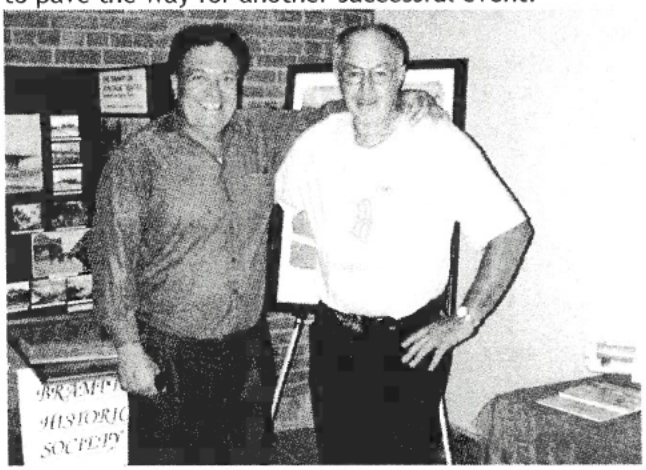
In addition we are fortunate to have secured the services of Eileen MacKenzie to assist with fund raising. Eileen has previous experience in this activity, having worked for the Heritage Complex and the Children's Aid Society as a fund raiser.

We anticipate changes to next year's format to produce some efficiencies and smoother operation.

- The number of sites will be limited 25.
- Each site will be responsible for its own volunteers.
- All sites will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both the Saturday and Sunday.

This year's activity will close when our report is filed with the Trillium Foundation in December.

When the new year unfolds we hope to be ready to approach the City for a renewal of their past funding to pave the way for another successful event.



David Nava, proprietor and restorer of the Hewetson Shoe Factory opened the doors of his building for the BHS display, organized by BHS Treasurer Gerry Clarkson. Photo courtesy of Albert Seaman

Timely Reminders Renewal memberships for 2004 are currently on sale. Also, 2004 Elections are fast approaching. Think about filling a vacancy among the following positions:

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary	

or serving on one of the following committees:

Archives	Heritage Liaison
Membership	Newsletter
Outreach Projects	Program
Publicity	Research
Save Our Station	Social
Website Liaison	

The nomination committee will facilitate the recruitment of volunteers to fill these positions. Further details as we get them.

The newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society
Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History
Buffy's Corners, the original name of Brampton, was the site of the respectable tavern owned by William Buffy, considered to be the father of Brampton. His pioneer spirit lives on in the name of our journal. History "buffs" are invited into The Corner to share their stories and comments.

Volume 5 Number 4 .....December 2003

In This Issue:

Bus Tour of "Irish Town"
The Continuing Saga of the Golden Lion
Local 'Bowstring Bridge' Preserved
Hi Ho Come to the Fair
Jim Leonard - New Man in Town

Buffy's Corner Staff

Editor .....Dorothy Willis
Layout.....Angie Duchesne
Production Manager.....Gerry Clarkson

Brampton Historical Society Executive

President ..... Peter Murphy
Past President .....Heather Gunter
Vice President ..... Janice Smith
Treasurer .....Gerry Clarkson
Recording Secretary.....Lynne Genova

Buffy's Corner
c/o Dorothy Willis
[redacted]

BHS
c/o Peter Murphy
[redacted]

Web site: www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com
Email us at: bramhis@rogers.com

Brampton *Hysterical* Society Joke-of-the-Month

Newscaster: A short fortune-teller escaped prison. The newspaper headline read "Small Medium at Large."

Buffy's Corner, published 4 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)

All Aboard!!!
Welcome to the new members of the BHS:
Venrah Ali
Rose O'Reilly & Peter Bailey
John and Linda Voegtle
Christel Walters
Remember to renew for 2004!

Buffy's Corner is printed thanks to the generosity of Peel Graphics Inc.

Peel Graphics Inc.
Commercial Printers Since 1933
240 clarence street, unit 5
brampton, ontario l6w 1t4
t 905 451 8870 f 905 455 9099 printing@peelgraphics.com

Buffy's Corner, Copyright 2003

SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Michael Avis, Heritage Liaison

It is encouraging to see the City's new downtown signage By-Law being implemented with consistency. Years of disinterest has meant that the unique historic nature of the downtown core, the very thing that we should be trying to showcase and promote, has been sadly neglected and left to deteriorate into a sad, tired looking, 'hodge podge' of tasteless advertising. The appearance of too many of the commercial buildings fronting Main Street has been spoiled by allowing crude and inappropriate signage.

The new bylaw ensures storefront signs must adhere to the new design standard. Back-lit signage is no longer permitted. In addition the City has also got directly involved with this visual transition by enlisting the services of Mr. Andres Cotic, an Urban Designer with the City Planning & Building Department. Mr. Cotic's considerable creative and artistic expertise is provided at no cost to the building owner. A fine example of this City Hall/private sector co-operation is the new 'Cyclepath' storefront which is a most welcomed addition to the downtown streetscape and is an eye-pleasing complement to its neighbour, the Beaux Arts Gallery, the southern anchor of the Robson Block.

The recent change of ownership of the Main Street North building occupied by the former Golden Star restaurant has resulted in the removal of the large back-lit sign and allowed the City to guide the new owners on how the new entrance should look. The new owners are to be complimented for repainting the entire façade of the building, highlighting some of the architectural details.

A building that holds a special place in the hearts of all BHS members is the Dominion Building. A focal point of the City, this Thomas Fuller design is, with the exception of the 1867 Peel County Court House, arguably the most architecturally significant building in the City. The property is privately owned but is a designated structure under the Heritage Act. Designation ensures that the exterior is protected from inappropriate signage that detracts from the historic nature of the architecture.

If we are to attract new *quality* businesses and residential in the downtown area, the building of the new performing arts centre plus a thoughtful and sympathetic approach to the restoration and promotion of our downtown commercial heritage buildings goes hand in hand.

A newly appointed and active Brampton Heritage Board will hopefully be in place early in the new year. Along with the ongoing careful scrutiny of our City Heritage Coordinator, Mr. Jim Leonard, plus some timely nudging from the Brampton Historical Society, we can make sure that this long overdue initiative is sustained and successful.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BHS

October 16 - Author and historical climatologist **Steve Pitt** presented "**The Night of Hurricane Hazel and Its Aftermath**" on Hazel's Anniversary and his own birthday.

Steve Pitt discusses Hurricane Hazel with BHS member and Brampton Business Times writer Gay Peppin.

October 18 - **Bus tour of "Irishtown" in the Albion Hills** with **Sally Drummond.**
Lynne Genova, Recording Secretary
This fall the hottest and scarcest ticket in Brampton was for the BHS guided bus tour. 48 adventurous souls boarded a bus on October 18 for an all-day tour. Under cloudy skies, just a sprinkle of rain, a blanket of colourful leaves, and fall temperatures, we headed north to explore the Albion Hills.

Sally Drummond introduces the first stop on the tour.

Sally Drummond, Heritage Officer for the Town of Caledon, led our group of heritage seekers. We discovered snake rail fences, early 19th century log homes and even an outhouse! Gracious owners opened their homes for us to browse and enjoy including an 1860 Ontario Gothic frame house and an 1830's magnificent log home lovingly restored by its present owners. Finally, exhibiting true pioneer spirit and a determined resolve, the entire group hiked through the woods to experience the secluded tranquility of the Crawford Pioneer Cemetery. Sally's enthusiasm and knowledge of the area made for a memorable trip. . The one word to sum up our bus tour of Caledon . . . . . *fantastic!*

UP AND COMING EVENTS

November 20 - Michael Moir, Director Corporate Records Systems City Archivist presents **"Our Collective Memory: Toronto's Documentary Heritage in the 21st Century.**

January 15 - former BHS Prez **Michael Seaman,** presents a blast from the past, **"Brampton's CPR Station".**

February 19 - **James Douglas**, one of the folks of the Credit, speaks on **"Heritage in Belfountain".**

March 18 - Annual General Meeting, with BHS elections. Speaker **Paul Willoughby**, presents **"Walter Rolling: a Man Before His Time".** Mr. Rolling was a black school teacher in King Township from 1895 to 1937.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

Historic Bovaird House

Victorian Christmas Open House & Carriage House Craft Sale. December 6 and 7, 2003.
563 Bovaird Drive, Brampton
Info: 905-874-2804 and www.bovairdhouse.ca.

Halton - Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

"More Brick Walls - Sharing Your Genealogical Trials and Triumphs: an interactive workshop"
Sun. January 25, 2004. 2:00 p.m.
Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton

Speaker **Joe MacDougall, "Genealogy in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia"**
Sun. February 22, 2004. 2:00 p.m.
Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton

Speaker **Diane Kuster** - **"Preservation and Conservation of Photos, Postcards, Papers, Ephemera"**
Sun. March 28, 2004. 2:00 p.m.
Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton

Info: [redacted]
www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ogshp/ogshp.htm

Friends of the Schoolhouse

Visit the Schoolhouse:
On the 2nd Sunday of every month the Old Britannia Schoolhouse will be open from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Info: [redacted] & www.britanniaschoolhouse.org

Esquesing Historical Society

No December Meeting.

Info: www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html

Peel Heritage Complex

Celebrate Heritage Day, February 15, 2004

Info: 905-791-4055 & www.peelheritagecomplex.org

Milton Historical Society

www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/mhs/index.htm

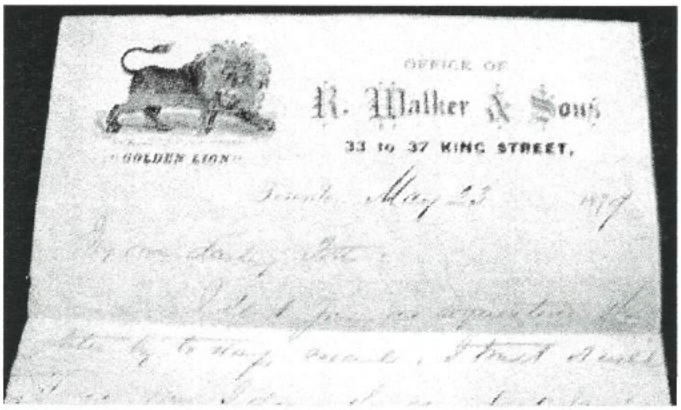
City of Brampton

On July 28, **Jim Leonard** commenced duties as the Heritage Co-ordinator. Jim previously was the Co-ordinator and Archivist for the City of Peterborough. For more info on the new heritage co-ordinator, see page 7.

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE GOLDEN LION

M. Hawley Johnston

At September's Show and Tell meeting, I was pleased to share how the BHS Newsletter's article, "The Man Who Created the Golden Lion" by Ralph and Meg Peck (Sept. 2003, p.p. 6-8) enriched and continues to enrich my life.



Letterhead from the Golden Lion
Courtesy of M. Hawley Johnston

Since the 1960's, I have had in my possession an old family letter. It had fallen out of a book when I was cleaning out a great aunt's estate. The book had belonged to her mother so I felt if she had kept her mother's letter, I probably should, too. On occasion when I am leafing through family "stuff", I have re-found the letter, re-read it, wondered about it and then put it away. Always I would tell myself that some day, when I had more time, I would try to find out more about the author (William Southgate, my maternal great grandfather) and the lady to whom the letter was written (Miss Sarah Mitchell, his fiancée). I also wanted to learn about the place from where the letter was written, a Toronto dry goods store called The Golden Lion. The letter, penned on Golden Lion letterhead, has an address of "33 to 37 King Street". No west or east. Just King Street. The date of the letter is 23 May 1879. It seems even back then moments at work were stolen to dash off a personal note. 124 years later, has anything changed? I think not. Other than today it's email, not letterhead and ink.

As luck would have it, on 20 March 2003, when Ralph Peck spoke at the BHS meeting I had purchased a copy of his book, "Before the Black Oxen Come". In the book is his home address. I immediately wrote to the Pecks on 10 September. I had to know what their interest in the Golden Lion was.

By 24 September, I had received a reply. Meg Peck's maternal great-great grandfather, Robert Walker, was the founder of the Golden Lion. This would mean that my great grandfather worked for her great-great grandfather. How amazing is that? 124 years after the letter was written, Meg Peck and I find out we share a connection. A Walker family tree for me was enclosed. The Peck's letter shared how they had taken advantage of Doors Open Brampton to visit the Brampton Pioneer Cemetery and the Brampton Cemetery. Both cemeteries proved very helpful in their search for Walker information unknown to them prior to their cemetery visits. They requested a photocopy of my letter on the Golden Lion letterhead. I immediately sent one to them.

The Pecks' second letter dated 2 October has what they feel my great grandfather's penmanship is trying to say. They recommended I check out the book, "Lost Toronto", by Wm Dendy to further my knowledge about the Golden Lion. In that book is the original photo of the Golden Lion emporium, which was copied for the BHS newsletter. The detail is so much better in the book since the image is so much larger. Ralph and Meg suggested in that letter that we meet over coffee and I have responded with, "yes, please". After 124 years, a cup of coffee seems just right.

LOCAL 'BOWSTRING BRIDGE' PRESERVED

Michael Avis, Heritage Liaison

The City of Brampton, with input from the Brampton Heritage Board, on September 29th 2003 designated a Brampton landmark under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The concrete bowstring arch bridge on Creditview Road (north of Steeles Ave.) which spans the Credit River has stood for almost 80 years. This type of bridge has played an important role in the history of transportation in Ontario from the early to mid 20th century. It is an increasingly rare example of this type of structure.

The bow bridge over the Credit River. Note the damage on the span columns' sides (inset), which are exposed to saltspray. The damage is not present on the side facing away from the road.

The bridge is also a significant local landmark. Its profile plays an important part in defining the traditional rural character of Creditview Road and adds to the contextual significance of nearby heritage structures, specifically 'Bonnie Braes' the former Alexander Hutton farmhouse at 8675 Creditview Road and 'Creditdale Farm' at 8028 Creditview Road. The bridge serves as an important reminder of our City's rich history.

Naturally, time, weather and traffic have taken their toll on the bridge and structural repairs will be required. The Brampton Heritage Board has been consulted regarding the form and scope of the restorations and every effort is being made to maintain the heritage integrity of the structure.

HI HO COME TO THE FAIR

Roving Reporter, Rowena Cooper

Agricultural fairs have been part of life in Peel County almost since the first settlers arrived. The only assessment roll from the 1820s to survive for Chinguacousy Township shows that there were 212 farms, with about 3,700 acres cleared. The assessment roll also shows Martin Salisbury with no land but a worth of £211, one horse and one cow. His tavern was situated on the Lot 8, Concession 1 East of Hurontario Street on the farm owned by Archibald Pickard.

Fairs in the first half of the 19th Century were not the same as today. Farmers needed a central location to sell their excess livestock and produce. In the early 1830s a fair was started at Salisbury's tavern for that purpose. By 1844 a branch of the Home District Agricultural Society had been formed and Peel was quickly becoming a prolific wheat growing area.

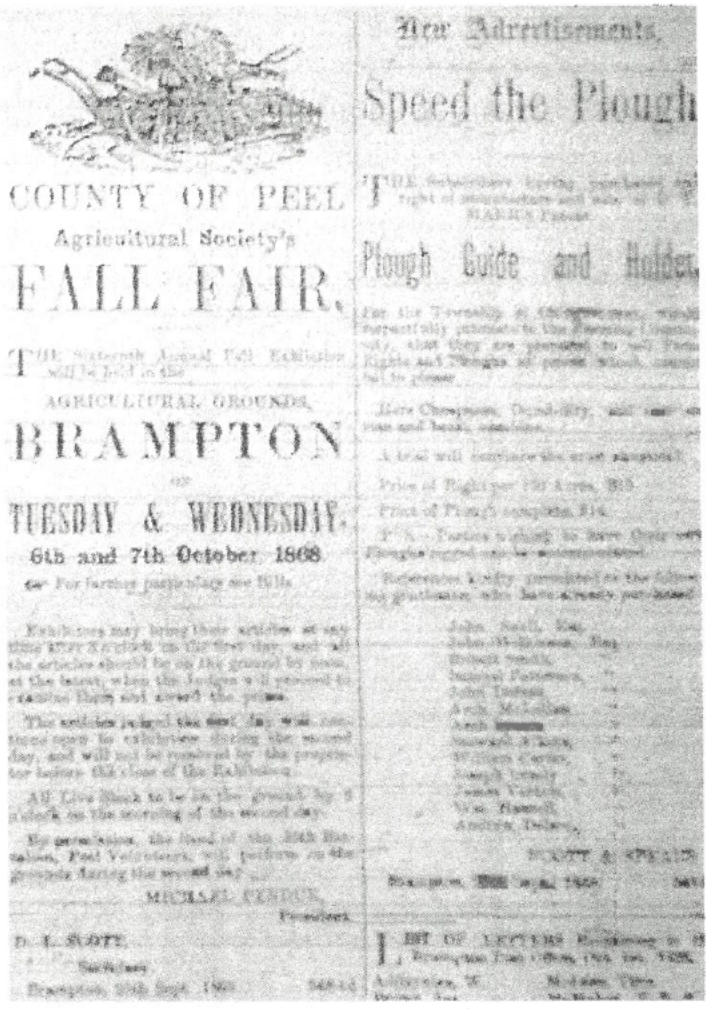
In 1846 the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada was formed and the first Provincial Exhibition was held in the same year. Members of the Chinguacousy branch voted for members of the Association executive committee each year and over the next twelve years exhibitions were held in the chief towns of the province.

In 1853 John Lynch wrote a prize-winning treatise on the state of agriculture in Peel. He gave information about Agricultural Societies. "As Peel is but a junior County, and has recently become a County, even in name, it has never had any County Agricultural Society, until the present year. There has been, however, a branch of the Home District Society, which was established in the autumn of 1844 in the Township of Chinguacousy, which has been of much benefit, not only to Chinguacousy, but to all the Townships of the County. A semi-annual Fair and Cattle Show has been held at Brampton, at which premiums were given for the best specimens of horses, cattle etc. to the amount of £25 to £55 per annum. These fairs were very numerously attended by persons from all parts of the County, and much buying and selling of horses, cattle etc. was transacted. Annual ploughing matches were also held, and premiums awarded. These ploughing matches, besides the advantage of creating an emulation among farmers and especially the young men, for whom a separate premium was awarded - had the effect of improving the description of plough. There are excellent ploughs of various patterns manufactured in many parts of the County, and there are many imported iron ploughs, which are considerably superior to any of our own manufacture. There has also been an Agricultural Society in the Township of Toronto, with a Fair and Cattle Show at Streetsville, and another formed of the union of parts of the Townships of Toronto, Chinguacousy and Gore."

The Peel County Agricultural Society was formed in 1853 after a petition had been sent to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. The headquarters of the Society were situated in Brampton, where they have remained ever since. The first President was Peleg Howland; First Vice-President, James Hamilton; Second Vice-President, Andrew Starret; Secretary, John Lynch; Directors: John Holmes, Matthew Smith, John Clark, James Young, Wesley Todd, John Elliott and Robert Hartley.

The first fairs run by the County Agricultural Society of the County of Peel were held at the corner of Queen and Main in Brampton. Tables were arranged for displaying grains, roots and dairy produce. Horses and cattle were shown on the road. Funds required for the maintenance of the society and payment of prizes were acquired from government grants and private subscription.

The first permanent fair grounds were situated on four acres, leased from the estate of John Elliot, at the south-east corner of Wellington and Main Streets. These premises remained the home of the fair until 1865 when Brampton was elected to be County Seat to the newly reconstructed County of Peel; the property was sold to the County, and the Court House and Gaol were built. The next site of the fair was seven acres at Wellington and Mary Streets, which was purchased for $1,235 in 1871. It remained at this site for the next thirteen years.


New Advertisements.

Speed the Plough

COUNTY OF PEEL

Agricultural Society's

FALL FAIR,

AGRICULTURAL GROUNDS,

BRAMPTON

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY,

6th and 7th October 1868

Plough Guide and Holder

The ad in the October 2, 1868 Brampton Times. Image courtesy of the Peel Archives

On October 2, 1868, an announcement of the forthcoming County of Peel Fall Fair was made in the *Brampton Times*. Held on a Tuesday and Wednesday, the fair attracted 10 - 12,000 people over the two-day period. The Band of the 36th Peel Battalion entertained on the Wednesday. The ladies participated by entering a huge

array of artificial flowers, sofa pillows, bead work, seed wreaths, velvet flowers, gentlemen's shirts, Berlin wool work, embroidery, chalk drawings, wax work, braiding and an enthusiastic display of amateur art. John Ward Cole had an exhibit of photographs. Mr. Stork showed a large array of chemicals and "sundries" in glass jars. Mrs. William Clarridge demonstrated the art of spinning. Haggert Brothers displayed an assortment of stoves. Mr. Baird exhibited several pieces of elaborately finished furniture and Mr. Norris Black of Toronto demonstrated a "very ingenious and effective knitting machine". Many other presentations, as well as the animal competition, made the fair a huge success.

In contrast, the Chinguacousy Fall Fair, held about a week later in Snelgrove, was "tolerably well attended", with comment about the close proximity and success of the County Fair. The Caledon Fall Fair also acknowledged that attendance was down and that not many township fairs could hope to compete with the size and scope of that run by the County Agricultural Society.

County and township fairs gave a boost to the social lives of the ladies in the community. At first fairs were entirely male-dominated, strictly for the showing, buying and selling of livestock. Apart from quilting, canning and various other "bees", a woman's life revolved about her home and the care of her menfolk and children. Until the fairs evolved, and in later years the Women's Institutes were founded, they had little social life.

The fair grew in size until it was too large to be accommodated in the grounds at Wellington and Mary Streets, and a search for a new home began in 1884. At the time a property known as The Brampton Driving Park was on the market. It consisted of thirteen acres and contained a fast half-mile racing track. The purchase price was $3,500. The old fair grounds were sold at auction for $4,275 and the society moved to their new premises located between Elliott and McMurchy Streets south of the CPR tracks. This site was the home of the Peel Agricultural Society for over one hundred years.

A number of buildings that had been built by the Agricultural Society were moved and re-erected at the new grounds. They included the first agricultural hall, which was destroyed by fire in 1896 and a large hall measuring sixty by one hundred feet that had been built by Mr. W. A. McCulla in 1878. This two-storied structure, with galleries, was considered one of the finest buildings of its type in the province. It, too, was destroyed by fire in 1896, after which the Society decided to erect smaller buildings.

In 1897 a building was constructed to house vegetables, dairy produce and ladies' work and by 1915 the fair had expanded so that further buildings were required.

The 50th Anniversary of the Brampton Fall Fair occurred in September 1907. The *Brampton Conservator* of September 26th of that year reported that the attendance was 6,000 and the number of entries estimated at 2,397. The downtown area of Brampton was hung with bunting and flags and by noon the streets were crowded. "Queen Lill" the snake charmer drew crowds as did other sideshows, and the school children, admitted free to the show for the first time demonstrated their "untrammelled enthusiasm". Special exhibits consisted of fine arts, natural history, baking and the ever popular quilting and needlework. Just as the Fair Grounds were filled to overflowing, the rain poured down causing everyone to seek shelter in any available spot. The paper reported that even though many ladies had their "Sunday best" outfits nearly ruined, the Fair day ended as "a day of unequalled jollity and enjoyment."

Brampton Fall Fair

The Annual Fall Fair of the County of Peel Ag. Society will be held at

BRAMPTON

September 19 and 20, 1907

Return Tickets at Single Fare on G.T.R. and C.P.R., good on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Top portion of the ad in the September 12, 1907 Conservator. Image courtesy of the Peel Archives

Peel farmers had gained a reputation for the high class breeding of their stock and both horses and cattle from Peel were well known from coast to coast. Dairy products were a great source of revenue throughout the County and grain was still grown, though more for feeding cattle than for the production of flour. Fruit growing was also taking hold and becoming one of the fastest growing industries in Peel.

The Ladies Board of the County of Peel Agricultural Society was formed in 1948 with Mrs. Mabel Bergstrom as charter President. Mrs. J. N. Campbell was elected as Secretary-Treasurer. The Ladies Board looked after the events in the Women's Building at the Fair. Senior and junior baking and needlework, canning, handicrafts, flower and art displays and the Women's Institute booths all came under the control of these hard working women.

The September 12, 1957 edition of the *Brampton Conservator* commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Brampton Fall Fair. Sideshows, fortune-tellers and "Queen Lill", the snake charmer gave way to a travelling midway supplied by the King shows. L. J. C. Bull, the oldest living former director of the Brampton Fall Fair, proudly showed a memorial plaque documenting the dates of the fair "spanning a century of progress for Peel and Brampton". T. L. Kennedy, Peel MPP, former Ontario Premier and Minister of Agriculture reminisced about the many Brampton Fairs he had attended and enjoyed. "I remember nearly 50 years ago putting on an exhibit for recruiting purposes for the Governor General Body Guard, and from that exhibit the Peel Squadron won many events at the Niagara Camp. I had the privilege of sitting in with the junior farmers and the directors in their two fine buildings which mean so much not only to the fair but to the social and sporting life of Peel."

The ad in the September 12, 1957 Brampton Conservator. Image courtesy of the Peel Archives

Centennial costumes were featured in the Women's Building with the Ladies of the Board dressed in century-old costumes to serve centennial cake and tea to friends and visitors. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Brampton Fair the Department of Agriculture erected a memorial entrance to the Fair Grounds.

In the mid 1990s it became clear that the Brampton Fair Grounds were no longer adequate for the huge event that the yearly fair had become. The Peel County Agricultural Society sold the Fair Grounds to the City of Brampton and purchased a new facility on Heart Lake Road. The well-being of Brampton residents has always been of prime importance to the City. With that in mind the old Fair Grounds were turned into an urban park for all to enjoy.

The large new site at 12942 Heart Lake Road was purchased in 1997. New buildings in which to show animals and mount displays were erected and the Brampton Fair took on a new persona. The annual fair now has enough show space and parking to comfortably accommodate the many thousands of visitors who each September answer the call to "come to the Fair!"

Over the past 150 years the Brampton Fair has evolved from a purely agricultural event where animals and vegetables were shown or sold, to a family day out where visitors can admire beautiful animals being handled by their youthful 4H Club handlers. They can marvel at show jumping. They can learn about Brampton and the services offered by the City and the Region and they can see displays of antiques, baking and quilting. There are many fun activities: a midway with rides and games, lots of delicious food to be sampled and exciting events such as a tractor-pull, featuring gigantic trucks pulling huge weights, round out the evening entertainment.

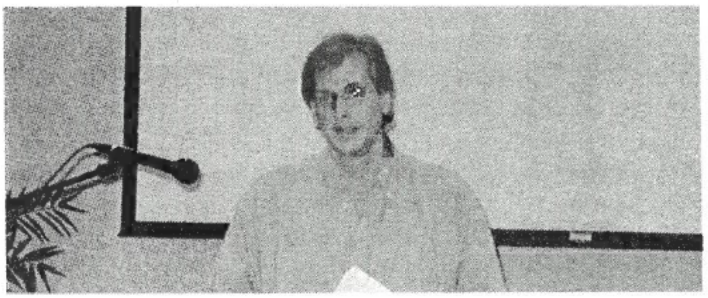
Agriculture is still an important part of the economy of the Region of Peel. The new fair grounds in addition to hosting the annual Brampton Fair is now the focal point of Peel's agricultural organizations such as the Federation of Agriculture, Junior Farmers, breed organizations and many other community events. Large regional livestock shows and sales result in Peel's prize livestock going to the "four corners" of the world.

While Peel Region is now predominately urban and highly industrialised, many residents still have agricultural roots and enjoy rediscovering them at the Fair. The Brampton Fall Fair plays an important role in "bridging the gap" between the urban and rural communities.

The City of Brampton Sesquicentennial Historical CD-ROM, researched and written by Rowena Cooper, is now available. This interactive and user-friendly package is a must-buy - $10.00 at the City Hall Information Kiosk.

Jim Leonard - New Man in Town

Jim Leonard was hired by the City of Brampton as Heritage Coordinator in the summer of 2003. This is a new, full-time position at City Hall.



Heritage Co-ordinator, Jim Leonard, speaks to the BHS .

As Brampton's Heritage Coordinator, Jim will be managing the municipal heritage inventory and the heritage designation program. He will also process heritage permits, review development applications for compliance with City heritage policies and archaeological potential, identify heritage resources and serve as an advocate for conservation within the City. He will also be a liaison between the City, the Brampton Heritage Board and the Churchville Heritage Conservation District Committee. Jim will develop and coordinate special project and programs that promote awareness and preservation of Brampton's heritage and cultural resources.

Prior to accepting the Heritage Coordinator position Jim Leonard was City Archivist for the Corporation of the City of Peterborough, working out of the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives (PCMA). He held that position for ten years. As City Archivist, Jim was responsible for the historical records of the Corporation, along with private records and family papers. He also managed a nationally significant photographic collection of close to 1,000,000 images.

In 2000 he coordinated the relocation of over 450,000 glass plate negatives (Roy Studio fonds) from the basement of the former studio in downtown Peterborough to a archival storage facility. Between 1994 and 2003 Jim was curator of several museum exhibitions covering a range of subjects like Edwardian portraiture, life in wartime, history of the picture postcard and a visual study documenting the impact of urban development on local built heritage.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

As Staff Coordinator for Peterborough's Municipal Heritage Committee (LACAC) he was engaged in a variety of duties including: writing heritage designation briefs, performing on-site property evaluations, monitoring compliance with City heritage policies and consulting with property owners of restoration projects.

A big part of Jim's work with the Heritage Committee involved coordinating special heritage projects such as the municipal heritage inventory, developing new heritage policies and designation criteria. Jim was part of the City steering committee that coordinated the introduction of the Heritage Property Tax Rebate program in Peterborough.

In 2002 he wrote, "A Property Owner's Guide to Heritage Designation", which won the Peterborough Historical Society's F.H. Dobbin Historical Publications Award. Jim also wrote applications resulting in grants of nearly $200,000 for the restoration of Peterborough's historic Market Hall and Clock Tower.

Since 1994 Jim has been a faculty member in the Museum Management and Curatorship program managed jointly by Sir Sandford Fleming College and Trent University. He teaches a course in archives management.

Several of Jim's research papers and presentations have been published in the following journals: the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC), the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), the Association of Archives of Ontario (AAO), International Committee for Documentation (CIDOC), Archives and Museum Informatics and the Peterborough Historical Society (PHS).

Jim has served on the boards of both Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) and the Ontario Museum Association (OMA). From 1988 to 1994 Jim was employed by the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) in Toronto as Computer Advisory Coordinator and consultant to museums and archives on collections management issues.

Welcome Jim Leonard to Brampton, your new home.

On Brampton Day, September 20, Larry Brenzel of the Ontario Heritage Foundation unveiled a plaque commemorating local artist John Wycliffe Lowes Forster, 1850-1938. Forster was a pre-eminent portrait master of his time. On hand for the ceremony were Mayor Susan Fennell and Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman.

After the plaque ceremony a reception was well-attended. Mayor Susan Fennell, Councillor Dick Metzak, Dr.Kathleen Armitage, Dr. T.H.B. Symons (grandson of Peel Historian Perkins Bull), Christine Symons and former Premier Bill Davis.

BHS Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from January to May and September to November at 7:15 p.m., Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth St., Brampton. Wheelchair-accessible; free to members; others $5

Application for membership in the **BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** (bramhis@rogers.com)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____

☐ **I enclose a Household Membership fee of $20 for a full year**

☐ **I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of $**

Please mail cheque or money order to:
Brampton Historical Society
c/o Peter Murphy, [redacted]

American money accepted at par